

# JUVENILE JUSTICE REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE

## NATIVE AMERICAN FOCUS GROUP

### November 12, 2015 Meeting Summary

On November 12<sup>th</sup> the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Initiative Native American Focus Group met via telephone to review information about tribal courts, as well as learn about the Principles of Effective Intervention for juvenile justice.

#### **Tribal Courts Overview**

Led by the Department of Tribal Relations, the focus group discussed each tribe including the tribes' locations and number of enrolled members; the structure of their court systems; and in some cases how law enforcement is provided, as well as who provides services to youth.

Jurisdictionally, tribes have control over tribal enrollment, domestic relations within tribal lands, and criminal, civil, and juvenile issues in coordination with federal statute and federal case law. Corrections and law enforcement is administered either through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) or via the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, under which tribes receive funds to operate a program otherwise administered by the Department of Interior and Department of Health and Human Services.

#### **The Principles of Effective Intervention**

Focus group members reviewed well-researched principles - the Principles of Effective Intervention (PEI) – that have been shown to be effective with juvenile justice populations. Decades of research have demonstrated that when these four principles are adhered to, recidivism is reduced and there is an increased likelihood for effective rehabilitation and positive behavioral change.

#### *The Four Principles:*

The Principles of Effective Intervention include these four principles:

1. The **risk principle** tells us who to target. The risk principle says youth must be assessed for their risk to reoffend. The identification of risk levels allows services to be focused on those youth who will benefit from the services -- the highest risk juveniles.
2. The **need principle** tells us what to target. The youth's individual needs must be identified and targeted to reduce the risk of reoffending. Targeting the four criminogenic needs (or risk factors) that are most related to future delinquency will produce the greatest reductions in recidivism. The four major criminogenic needs include:
  - Antisocial personality;
  - Antisocial peers;
  - Antisocial attitude; and
  - History of antisocial behavior.
3. The **responsivity principle** tells us how to effectively work with juveniles and ensures that potential barriers to success are identified and addressed. Programs based in the cognitive-behavioral and social learning theories are most effective in teaching and reinforcing prosocial behaviors. Further, identifying and removing barriers to success, such as transportation or anxiety, will help youth be successful with interventions, programs, and services.

4. The **fidelity principle** tells us how to do this work right and is important to the effective delivery of juvenile justice programs and practices. The fidelity principle ensures programs and practices are properly implemented, assessed, and evaluated in order to ensure these services and skills are delivered consistently and as designed.

### **Next Steps**

The next meeting of the Native American Focus group is scheduled for January 5, 2016 in Pierre. This meeting will provide an overview of the nine tribes and their court systems, a more in-depth discussion of the Principles of Intervention as they relate to the focus group goals, an upcoming survey, and a presentation on the state's Tribal Parole Pilot.